

TRANSMITTAL LETTER OF THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		Attorney Docket No. 0501-1006 U.S. Application No. 10/069288
INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO. PCT/FR00/01774	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 23 JUNE 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 24 JUNE 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION: APPARATUS FOR MAKING FIGURES OR BODY EXERCISES IN ROTATION, AND RELATED GRIPPING ORGAN		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DE/EO/US: ALI SLIMI		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau) b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. See attached PCT/IB/308. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). <p>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) w/PTO-1449 - <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of IDS citations 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST Preliminary Amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT Preliminary Amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application (35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: PCT/IB/317, PCT/RO/101, Application Data Sheet 		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/069288		INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO. 23 JUNE 2000		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0501-1006	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1)-(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee nor international search fee paid to USPTO and international Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO\$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$890.00 International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO but International search fee paid to USPTO\$740.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provision of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4).....\$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provision of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4).....\$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration than <input type="checkbox"/> 20- <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e))				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total Claims	10 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$84.00	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPEND CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATION -				\$ 890.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				+ \$ 445.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 445.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492Z(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 445.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assigned (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED -				\$ 445.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				Charged:	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Check in the amount of \$445.00 to cover all fees is attached. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit account No. 25-0120 in the name of Young & Thompson, as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: 745 South 23 rd Street Arlington, VA 22202 Telephone (703) 521-2297 Y&T Customer No. 000466			SIGNATURE <u><i>Benoit Castel</i></u> Benoit Castel NAME 35,041 REGISTRATION NO.		
BC/ia Date: February 25, 2002					

PATENT
0501-1006

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ali SLIMI

Appl. No.:

NEW

Group:

Filed:

February 25, 2002

Examiner:

For:

APPARATUS FOR MAKING FIGURES OR BODY
EXERCISES IN ROTATION, AND RELATED
GRIPPING ORGANPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

February 25, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the rewritten Abstract of the Disclosure attached on a separate sheet attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (amended) An apparatus (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) has substantially

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symmetric structure for receiving indifferently the left hand or the right hand of the user.

7. (amended) An apparatus (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) is made by moulding.

8. (amended) An apparatus (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the rotatively coupling means (30) comprise a ball bearing.

9. (amended) A gripping organ (40), of the type equipping the upper part of an apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that it includes a hollow central part conformed to receive the palm of the hand of a user, and a plurality of recesses extending beyond said central part for receiving fingers of said user.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041

745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297

BC/ia
Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

An apparatus (1) for making figures or body exercises in rotation, ~~comprising:~~

~~-includes:~~ a lower part (20) ~~comprising~~ having non-skipping ~~means~~ elements (22) on an exercise surface ~~(S),~~

~~-(S);~~ a mobile upper part (10) rotating relatively to ~~said~~ the lower part (20), ~~and~~

~~—means~~ and elements (30) for coupling in rotation ~~said~~ the respectively upper and lower parts (10, 20). ~~—~~

20). The upper part (10) comprises a gripping piece (100) conformed to receive a part (M) of a user's (U) body.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (amended) An apparatus (1) according to ~~any of claims 2 to 4,~~ claim 1, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) has substantially symmetric structure for receiving indifferently the left hand or the right hand of the user.

7. (amended) An apparatus (1) according to ~~any of preceding claims,~~ claim 1, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) is made by moulding.

8. (amended) An apparatus (1) according to ~~any of~~
~~preceding claims,~~claim 1, characterized in that the rotatively
coupling means (30) comprise a ball bearing.

9. (amended) A gripping organ (40), of the type equipping
the upper part of an apparatus according to ~~any of claims 2 to~~
~~6,~~claim 2, characterized in that it includes a hollow central
part conformed to receive the palm of the hand of a user, and a
plurality of recesses extending beyond said central part for
receiving fingers of said user.

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Abstract of the Disclosure

An apparatus (1) for making figures or body exercises in rotation, includes: a lower part (20) having non-skipping elements (22) on an exercise surface (S); a mobile upper part (10) rotating relatively to the lower part (20), and elements (30) for coupling in rotation the respectively upper and lower parts (10, 20). The upper part (10) comprises a gripping piece (100) conformed to receive a part (M) of a user's (U) body.

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"Apparatus for making figures or body exercises in rotation, and related
gripping organ"

The present invention relates to an apparatus for making figures or body
5 exercises in rotation. It also concerns a gripping organ of the type equipping
said apparatus.

New forms of dances and urban body expression such as hip-hop
include rotation figures wherein the male or female dancer turns on himself or
herself, by being supported on one hand directly put on a surface or a carpet or
10 a piece of cloth placed on said surface which must be flat. The possible
irregularities of the holding surface can cause these rotation exercises to be
particularly tough and sometimes hazardous. Furthermore, the dancers may
have their artistic demonstration limited by their physical resistance and their
ability to counter the frictions at the interface between their hand and the
15 contact surface. Moreover, the dancers can be led to make figures in rotation by
being supported on a part of the body other than the hand, for example, the
back, the ass, the head, a knee or a foot.

A training apparatus for the swing in golf is already known by document
US5810673, comprising a disk coupled in rotation relatively to a basis and
20 provided for receiving a user's foot maintained by a strap. The basis in said
apparatus is fixed to a removable ground carpet.

The aim of the present invention is to propose an apparatus for making
figures or body exercises in rotation, which provides anybody using said
apparatus an ability to make figures in rotation in better conditions than those
25 met in the present context of figures in rotation.

This aim is met with an apparatus for making figures or body exercises in
rotation, comprising:

- a lower part comprising non-skipping means on an exercise surface,
- a upper part rotatively mobile relatively to said lower part, and
- 30 - means for rotatively coupling said respectively upper and lower parts.

According to the invention, the upper part comprises a gripping piece
conformed for receiving a part of a user's body.

In a preferred embodiment of an apparatus according to the invention,
adapted to receive a user's hand, the gripping piece includes a hollow central

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part conformed to receive the palm of the user's hand, and a plurality of recesses extending beyond said central part for receiving said user's fingers.

Thus there is provided an apparatus which is compact, portable and particularly efficient for figures in rotation.

5 In a variant of the invention, the gripping piece may furthermore include means for braking the mobile upper part. These braking means comprise for example braking control means which can be actuated by a thumb of the user.

It is to be noted that models of the apparatus according to the invention can be specifically provide for right-hand or left-hand users, with for example a
10 displacement of the brake from left to right or from right to left depending on the fact that the user is right-hand or left-hand.

Preferably, the gripping piece has a structure which is substantially symmetrical for indifferently receiving the user's left hand or right hand.

The gripping piece can advantageously include two main protrusions
15 placed on one side and the other side from the central part and three inter-digit protrusions placed substantially in circle arc between the two main protrusions.

Numerous techniques can be used for making the gripping piece. For example, as a way of non limitative example, a making process by resin moulding can be used.

20 According to another aspect of the invention, a gripping organ is proposed, of the type equipping the upper part of an apparatus according to the invention, characterized in that it includes a hollow central part conformed to receive the palm of a user's hand, and a plurality of recesses extending beyond said central part for receiving said user's fingers.

25 This gripping organ can be advantageously attached to an accessory able to be actuated or hand-held, such as a projectile launcher, a racket for ball or shuttlecock games, or to a paddle for nautical activity, or to a neutralizing file launcher.

The present invention will be better understood with regards to the
30 following description, in reference to the attached figures:

- Figure 1 illustrates a first embodiment example of an apparatus according to the invention;
- Figure 2 is a side view of an apparatus of the type featured in Figure 1;

- Figures 3A and 3B respectively feature the insertion of resp. left and right hands of a user in an apparatus according to the invention;
- Figure 4 is a perspective view of a second embodiment example of an apparatus according to the invention;
- 5 - Figure 5 illustrates an example of use for an apparatus according to the invention; and
- Figures 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D feature four specific applications of a gripping organ according to the invention.

An apparatus 1 according to the invention comprises, with reference to
10 Figures 1 and 2, a lower part 20 equipped with a lower anti-skidding or non-slipping or anti-sliding coating and provided for being put on an exercise surface, a ball-bearing device 30, and a mobile upper part 10 supporting a gripping piece 100 made by moulding in a material such as resin. This gripping piece 100 comprises a hollow central part 16 conformed to receive in a
15 ergonomic way a user's palm and, in one side and another of said central part, two central protrusions 11, 15 substantially curved towards the interior on their upper part, and three inter-digit protrusions 12, 13, 14 substantially placed in circle arc around said two main protrusions 11, 15. The gripping piece constitutes a relatively compact ensemble and can be advantageously
20 decorated particularly in function of its use or for commercial or advertising aims. The mobile upper part 10 can be provided with a mechanical brake (non represented).

With reference to Figures 3A and 3B, the gripping piece 100 can be designed so as to present a symmetry permitting an ambidexter use of the
25 apparatus according to the invention. Thus, the user can indifferently place his left hand MG or his right hand MD in the gripping piece 100.

In the first embodiment example illustrated by Figures 1 and 2, the lower part has a discoid shape and diameter of the ball bearing 30 is substantially smaller than the diameter of the upper and lower parts. In another embodiment
30 example illustrated by Figure 4, the apparatus according to the invention comprises an upper part 110 , a lower part 120 and ball bearing 130 with substantially identical external diameters.

With an apparatus according to the invention, a user U dancing hip-hop, inserting his hand into the gripping piece of said apparatus that he has

previously placed on an exercise surface S, can then make numerous figures in rotation with exceptional speed conditions. The non-skidding coating 22 placed between the lower part 20 and the ground S ensures the immobility of the apparatus 1 during the exercise.

5 A gripping organ with a structure identical to the gripping piece equipping an apparatus according to the invention can be used for making original devices, when said gripping organ is attached to usually hand-held accessories. The sought main objective is to provide the user with a grip as efficient as possible.

10 Thus, with reference to Figures 6A and 6D, several applications can be provided for a same gripping organ 40 made with moulded resin and comprising two main protrusions 411, 415 and three inter-digit protrusions 412, 413, 414, in such different domains as diving, swimming, defense or security, hunting or ball and shuttlecock games.

15 A first example of application concerns, with reference to Figure 6A, making nautical ambidexter paddle 6A including a glove 43 provided with an opening 44 for the wrist and openings for the user's fingers.

20 A second embodiment example concerns, with reference to Figure 6B, an application of the gripping organ 40 to a projectile launcher 6B, for example for sharp projectiles, suction cup projectiles, magnet projectiles or projectiles equipped with Velcro®, said launcher being provided for example with a mechanism of bow or arbalest 51 and with a glove 53.

25 In a third embodiment example illustrated by Figure 6C, the gripping organ 40 according to the invention is coupled to a device 6C for launching a file F used for neutralizing persons or animals, said device being provided with a glove 63 and with a gas-cartridge propulsion mechanism (non represented).

 The gripping organ according to the invention 40 can also be coupled to a racket 6D designed for shuttlecock V or ball B games and provided with a sieve 71 and with a glove 73 inserted in the gripping organ.

30 It is to be noted that in the above-described application examples, other embodiments which don't include a glove can be contemplated.

 Of course, various embodiments are possible. Particularly, the gripping piece can be adapted to receive a part of a body other than a hand, for example, a foot, a knee, an elbow, the buttocks or the head of a user. This can

be made possible by adding on a existing gripping piece an adaptation piece specifically conformed to receive this other body part.

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CLAIMS

1. An apparatus (1) for making figures or body exercises in rotation, comprising:
- a lower part (20) comprising non-skipping means (22) on an exercise surface (S),
 - a mobile upper part (10) rotating relatively to said lower part (20), and
 - means (30) for coupling in rotation said respectively upper and lower parts (10, 20),
- characterized in that said upper part (10) comprises a gripping piece (100) conformed to receive a part (M) of a user's (U) body.
2. The apparatus (1) of claim 1, adapted to receive a user's (U) hand (M), characterized in that the gripping piece (100) includes a hollow central part (16) conformed to receive the palm of the user's (U) hand (M), and a plurality of recesses extending beyond said central part (16) for receiving fingers of said user (U).
3. The apparatus of claim 2, characterized in that the gripping piece further includes means for braking the mobile upper part.
4. The apparatus of the claim 3, characterized in that the braking means comprise brake controlling means that can be actuated by a thumb of the user.
5. An apparatus (1) according to any of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) has substantially symmetric structure for receiving indifferently the left hand or the right hand of the user.
6. The apparatus (1) of claim 5, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) includes two main protrusions (11, 15) respectively placed on one side and the other side of the central part (16) and three inter-digit protrusions (12, 13, 14) located substantially in circle arc between said two main protrusions (11, 15).
7. An apparatus (1) according to any of preceding claims, characterized in that the gripping piece (100) is made by moulding.

8. An apparatus (1) according to any of preceding claims, characterized in that the rotatively coupling means (30) comprise a ball bearing.
- 5 9. A gripping organ (40), of the type equipping the upper part of an apparatus according to any of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that it includes a hollow central part conformed to receive the palm of the hand of a user, and a plurality of recesses extending beyond said central part for receiving fingers of said user.
- 10 10. The gripping organ (40) of claim 9, characterized in that it is attached to a portable accessory (6A, 6B, 6C, 6D).

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ABSTRACT

An apparatus (1) for making figures or body exercises in rotation, comprising:

- 5 - a lower part (20) comprising non-skipping means (22) on an exercise surface (S),
- a mobile upper part (10) rotating relatively to said lower part (20), and
- means (30) for coupling in rotation said respectively upper and lower parts (10, 20).
- 10 The upper part (10) comprises a gripping piece (100) conformed to receive a part (M) of a user's (U) body.

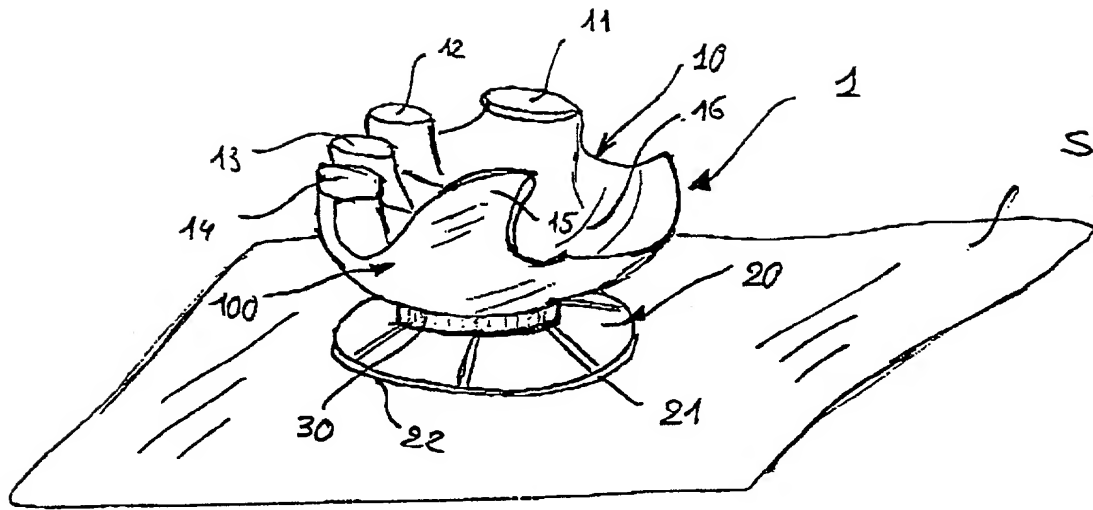


FIG. 1

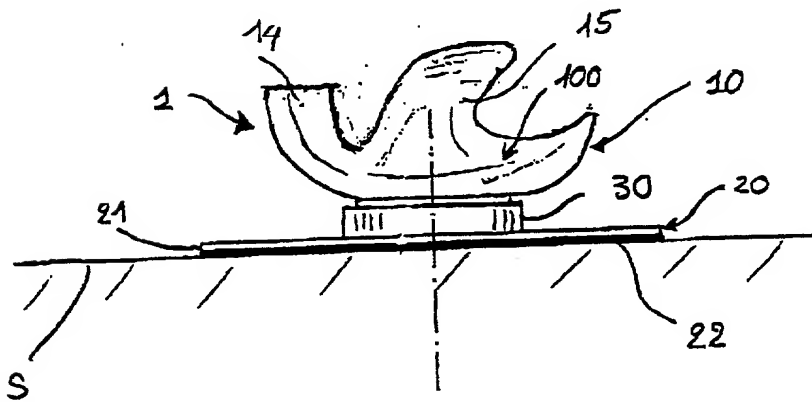


FIG. 2

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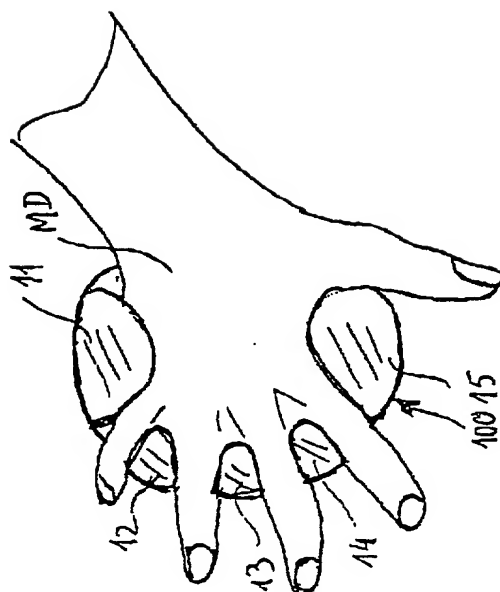
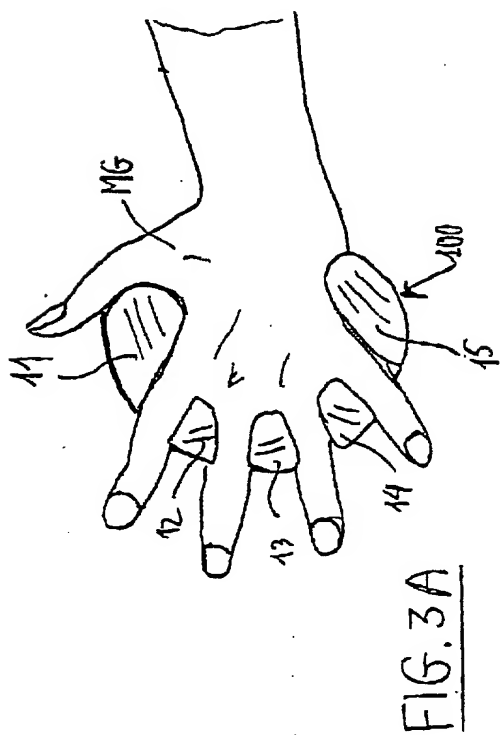
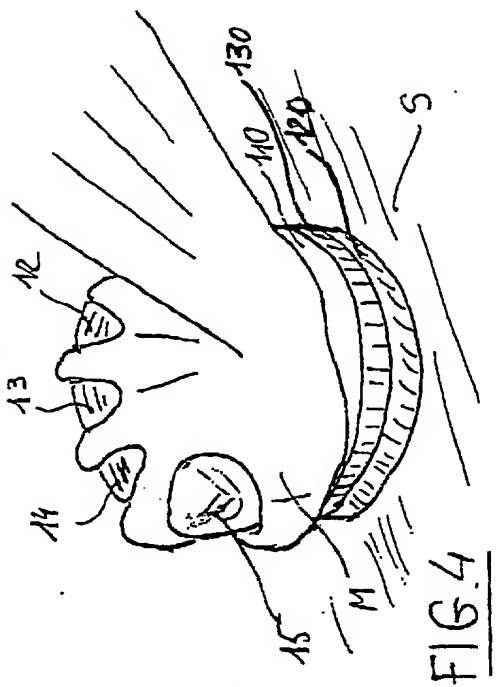


FIG. 5

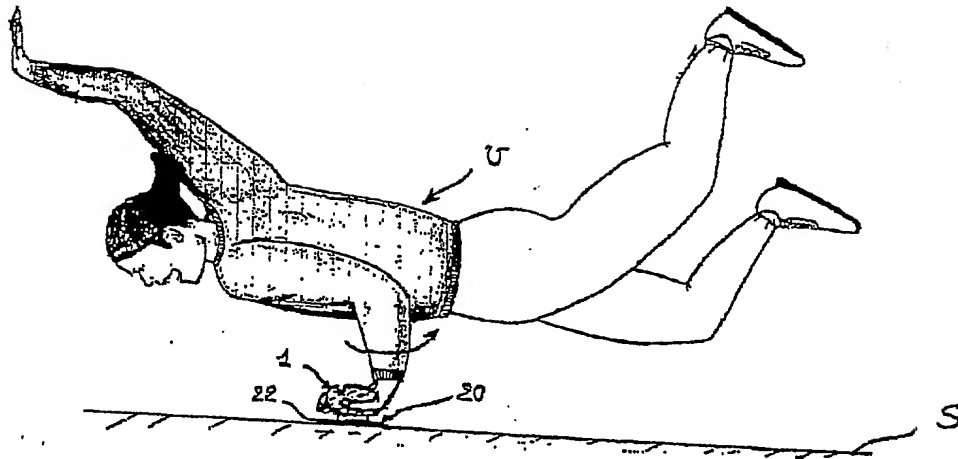


FIG. 6A

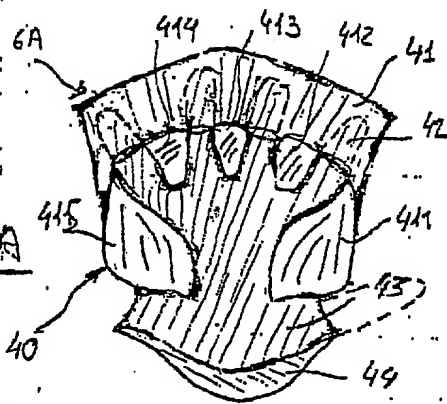


FIG. 6B

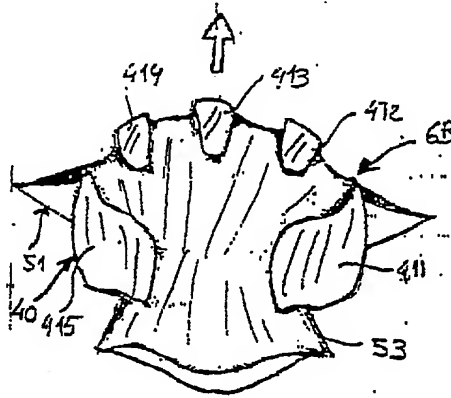


FIG. 6C

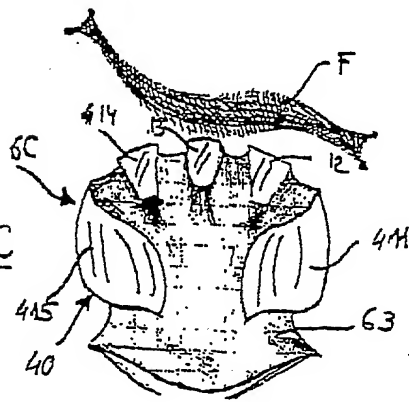
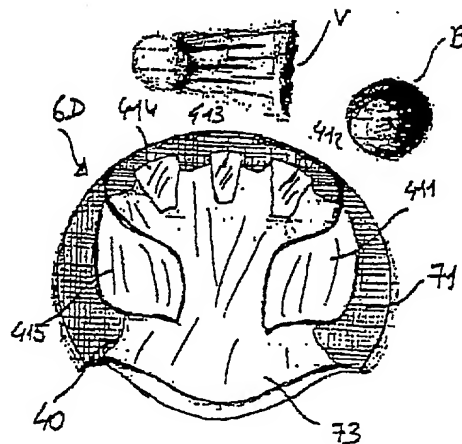


FIG. 6D



Ref. _____

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Apparatus for making figures or body exercises in rotation,
and related gripping organ.

the specification of which: *(check one)*

REGULAR OR DESIGN APPLICATION

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE

☒ was described and claimed in International application No.
PCT/FR00/01774 filed on June 23, 2000
and as amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed
FRANCE	99 08 107	24/06/1999	NO

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Appln.

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

Ref. _____

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from Pontet Allano & Associés as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the registered patent attorneys represented by Customer No. 000466 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, including: Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,355, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Benoit CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,041, Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, Roland E. LONG, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949 and Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 37,855,

c/o YOUNG & THOMPSON
Second Floor,
745 South 23rd Street,
Arlington, Virginia 22202.



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PATENT, TRADEMARK OFFICE

Address all telephone calls to Young & Thompson at 703/521-2297. Telefax: 703/685-0573.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Ali SLIMI
(given name, family name)

Inventor's signature [Signature] Date February 22, 2002

Residence: DAMMARIE LES LYS, FRANCE FRX Citizenship: French

Post Office Address: Foyer SONACOTRA
Résidence de Normandie
Chambre 512
F-77190 DAMMARIE LES LYS, FRANCE

Full name of second joint inventor, if any:
(given name, family name)

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence: _____ Citizenship: _____

Post Office Address: _____

Full name of third joint inventor, if any:
(given name, family name)

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

Residence: _____ Citizenship: _____

Post Office Address: _____

Ref. _____